

# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

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## OPINION 524

Interpretation of the nominal species *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, and addition to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the generic name *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 with *Ahaetulla mycterizans* Link, 1807 as type species  
(Class Reptilia)

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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(16th December 1954)

## OPINION 524

### INTERPRETATION OF THE NOMINAL SPECIES “COLUBER AHAETULLA” LINNAEUS, 1758, AND ADDITION TO THE “OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY” OF THE GENERIC NAME “AHAETULLA” LINK, 1807, WITH “AHAETULLA MYCTERIZANS” LINK, 1807, AS TYPE SPECIES (CLASS REPTILIA)

**RULING** :—(1) It is hereby directed that the nominal species *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Reptilia) be interpreted by reference to the lectotype selected by Savage (J.M.) & Oliver (J.A.) (1956), that is, by the second of the South American Linnean specimens discussed by Lönnberg (1896).

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 (gender : feminine) (type species by selection by Meise & Hennig (1932) : *Ahaetulla mycterizans* Link, 1807) (Name No. 1308) ;
- (b) *Leptophis* Bell, 1825 (gender : masculine) (type species by selection by Fitzinger (1843) : *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, as defined by the lectotype specified in (1) above) (Name No. 1309) ;
- (c) *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890 (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Ahaetulla caudolineata* Gray (J.E.), [1834]) (Name No. 1310).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Coluber ahaetulla*, and as defined in (1) above (specific name of type species of *Leptophis* Bell, 1825) (Name No. 1571) ;
- (b) *caudolineata* Gray (J.E.), [1834], as published in the combination *Ahaetulla caudolineata* (specific name of type species of *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890) (Name No. 1572) ;
- (c) *nasutus* Lacépède, 1789, as published in the combination *Coluber nasutus* (Name No. 1573).

(4) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *Ahaetulla* Gray (J.E.), 1825 (a junior homonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807) (Name No. 1203) ;
- (b) *Dendrophis* Boie (H.), 1826 (a junior objective synonym of *Leptophis* Bell, 1825) (Name No. 1204) ;
- (c) *Tachyophis* Mertens, 1934 (a junior homonym of *Tachyophis* Rochebrune, 1884) (Name No. 1205) ;
- (d) *Dryinus* Merrem, 1820 (a junior homonym of *Dryinus* Latreille, [1804], and a junior objective synonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807) (Name No. 1206) ;
- (e) *Dryophis* Dalman, 1823 (a junior objective synonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807) (Name No. 1207) ;

- (f) *Passerita* Gray (J.E.), 1825 (a junior objective synonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807) (Name No. 1208).

## I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 26th May 1953 Dr. Jay M. Savage (then of the *Natural History Museum, Stanford University, Stanford, California, U.S.A.*, and now of the *Department of Biology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California*) addressed to the Office of the Commission, on his own behalf and on that of Dr. James A. Oliver (*New York Zoological Society, New York*), a preliminary communication on the subject (a) of the species to be accepted as the type species of the genus *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 (Class Reptilia) and (b) the interpretation of the nominal species *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758. Following correspondence with the Secretary the following definitive application on the above subjects was submitted by Dr. Savage on 24th March 1956 :—

**Proposed addition to the " Official List of Generic Names in Zoology "**  
**of " Ahaetulla " Link, 1807, with " Ahaetulla mycterizans "**  
**Link, 1807, as type species (Class Reptilia)**

By JAY M. SAVAGE

(*Department of Biology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.*)

and

JAMES A. OLIVER

(*New York Zoological Society, New York City, N.Y., U.S.A.*)

The principal object of the present application is to ask the International Commission to place the generic name *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with *Ahaetulla mycterizans* Link, 1807, as type species. A secondary purpose of the

present application is to provide an opportunity for the selection of a lectotype for the nominal species *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, and to ask the Commission to place the generic name *Leptophis* Bell, 1825, on the *Official List* with the above species as type species. The correct application of the generic name *Ahaetulla* Link and the name *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus has been the subject of considerable controversy, and, as we have most recently studied the problem (Oliver, 1948, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* **92** : 167 ; Savage, 1952, *Bull. Chicago Acad. Sci.* **9**(11) : 203), it seems appropriate for us to make application to the Commission for rulings stabilising the usage of these and allied names.

2. The snakes primarily involved in this discussion by virtue of their use as type species of genera are *Ahaetulla ahaetulla* (Linnaeus), *Ahaetulla caudolineata* (Gray) and *Dryophis nasutus* (Lacépède) of south-eastern Asia and *Thalerophis richardi* (Bory St. Vincent) of South America. These names are those adopted in the recent generic reviews by Malcolm Smith (1943, *Fauna Brit. India* **3** : 241), and Oliver (*loc. cit.*), and for the sake of clarity will be used in the following historical summary of the problems.

3. The following are the references for the names discussed in the present paper on which action of one kind or another is asked for from the Commission :—

*Ahaetulla* Link, 1807, *Beschr. Nat. Samml. Rostock.* (2) : 73

*Ahaetulla* Gray (J.E.), 1825, *Ann. Phil.* **26** : 208

*ahaetulla*, *Coluber*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed 10) **1** : 225

*caudolineata*, *Ahaetulla*, Gray (J.E.), [1834], *Ill. Ind. Zool.* (2) : pl. 81

*Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890, *Faun. Brit. Ind.*, Rept. Batr. : 339

*Dendrophis* Boie, 1826, in Fitzinger, *Neue Classif. Rept.* : 29, 60

*Dryinus* Merrem, 1820, *Tent. Syst. Amph.* : 15, 136

*Dryophis* Dalman, 1823, *Anat. Ent.* : 7

*Leptophis* Bell, 1825, *Zool. J.* **2**(7) : 322

*nasutus*, *Coluber*, Lacépède, 1789, *Quadr. Ovip.* **2** : 100

*Passerita* Gray (J.E.), 1825, *Ann. Phil.* **26** : 208

*Tachyophis* Mertens, 1834, *Arch. Naturgesch.* (N.F.) **3** : 197

4. In the case of two out of the three genera, the names of which it is proposed should now be placed on the *Official List of Generic*

*Names in Zoology* the type species was determined by subsequent selection under Rule (g) in Article 30. The following are the references for the type selections so made :—

For *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 : Meise & Hennig, 1932, *Zool. Anz.* **99** : 296

For *Leptophis* Bell, 1825 : Fitzinger, 1853, *Syst. Rept.* : 26

## SUMMARY OF THE PROBLEMS

### a. The name “ *Coluber ahaetulla* ” Linnaeus, 1758

5. When Linnaeus (1758, *loc. cit.*) described *Coluber ahaetulla* from “ Asia America ”, he presented no characters that would unequivocally diagnose the new form. Fortunately Lönnberg (1896, *Bihang. K. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Handl.* **22**(4), 1 : 6, 26), and Andersson (1899, *Bihang. K. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Handl.* **24**(4), 1 : 22) have shown that the Linnean material consisted of four examples of *Thalerophis richardi* from South America and one example of the Asiatic species which has been interpreted as *Ahaetulla ahaetulla* (Linnaeus). This material was mentioned under the name *C. ahaetulla* several times previous to the publication of the 10th Edition of the *Systema Naturae* (Linnaeus, 1745, 1748 and 1754). However, in the 10th Edition of the *Systema Naturae* Linnaeus gave the counts of only a single specimen, one of his examples of *Thalerophis richardi*. This appears to us to constitute a definite designation of a type specimen by Linnaeus as the original author, with the consequence of attaching the name *Coluber ahaetulla* to the South American species. All other workers have overlooked this virtual selection of a holotype by Linnaeus and as a result the name *Coluber ahaetulla* has been applied to both the South American snake later known as *Thalerophis richardi* and to the Asiatic species later known as *Ahaetulla ahaetulla* (Linnaeus). In order definitely to establish the name *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus as applicable to the South American species, we herewith select as the lectotype of this nominal species the specimen mentioned by Lönnberg in 1896 (*Bihang K. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Handl.* **22** (Afd. 4 (No. 1) : 5—6) as from *Donatio Caroli Gyllenborg*, 1744. This specimen is listed as Number 2 and has 162 ventrals and 152 subcaudals. The example is a member of the South American species.

6. The confusion regarding the correct application of the specific name *C. ahaetulla* is reflected by the number of generic names which have been used for it.

### b. Generic names

7. As a result of the conclusion now submitted regarding the identity of *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, the following synonymy

summarizes the effects that the allocation has on the application of the effected generic names :

(I) South American

- (A) *Leptophis* Bell, 1825 (type species by selection by Fitzinger (1843) : *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758). Synonyms of *Leptophis* would be : *Ahaetulla* Gray, 1825 (type species by absolute tautonymy : *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758) ; *Dendrophis* H. Boie, 1826 (type species, by original designation : *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758) ; *Ahoetulla* Gray, 1831 (substitute name for *Leptophis* Bell ; takes same type species) ; *Thalerophis* Oliver, 1947 (type species by original designation : *Coluber richardi* Bory St. Vincent, 1823 = *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758).

(II) Asian

- (A) *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890 (type species by monotypy : *Ahaetulla caudolineata* Gray, 1834). *Tachyophis* Mertens, 1934 (type species by original designation : *Coluber pictus* Gmelin, 1789 = *Coluber boiga* Lacépède, 1789) is a synonym of *Dendrelaphis*. *Tachyophis* Rochebrune, 1884, has already been used for a genus of fossil snakes and Mertens' name is therefore a junior homonym and unavailable.
- (B) *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 (type species by selection by Meise & Hennig (1932) : *Ahaetulla mycterizans* Link, 1807 = *Coluber nasutus* Lacépède, 1789). Synonyms are : *Dryinus* Merrem, 1820, type species, by selection by Gray (1825) *Coluber mycterizans* Linné, 1758 (a junior homonym of *Dryinus* Latreille, [1804], a name in the Class Insecta already placed on the *Official List* ; *Dryophis* Dalman, 1823, and *Passerita* Gray, 1825, are both substitute names for *Dryinus* Merrem and consequently take the same type species.

As listed above, *Leptophis* would now apply to those snakes called *Thalerophis* by Oliver (1948, *loc. cit.*), *Dendrelaphis* must refer to those snakes included in *Ahaetulla* by Smith (1943, *loc. cit.*) and *Ahaetulla* now includes the forms placed in *Dryophis* by Smith (1943).

8. The availability of the name *Coluber boiga* Lacépède, 1789 (*Quadr. Ovip.* 2 : 102) has, however, been questioned and there has been discussion also regarding the interpretation of this name. Malcolm Smith (1943, *loc. cit.*) argued that it was not a valid binominal name. Further, he argued that the reference of "Le Boiga" to *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus by Lacépède in a footnote should be interpreted



as meaning that Link's *Ahaetulla fasciata* is the same as the *Coluber ahaetulla* of Linnaeus. On the basis of this argument Smith concluded that *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, was the type species of the genus *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807, by absolute tautonymy. These contentions have recently been examined by Savage (1952, *loc. cit.*) who has shown that both are incorrect. On the first of these questions Savage has shown (: 204) that, in introducing the *boiga*, Lacépède followed the practice commonly adopted by French zoologists until well into the XIXth century of introducing new names simultaneously in two forms, the word selected for the name being printed first in Roman characters and second in italics. The first of these words represented the actual or proposed vernacular (French) name for the species in question, the second the Latin specific name proposed for it. In accordance with the same practice Lacépède, after having once used the generic name which he adopted for a group, did not always repeat that name when citing the names of species. This method of citing names would not be regarded as satisfactory today but it was widely used by French zoologists at the end of the XVIIIth and the beginning of the XIXth centuries and has always been accepted as constituting a valid publication of the names concerned. Any other view, if adopted, would cause the utmost confusion and widespread name-changing. The contention advanced by Smith in this matter must therefore be unquestioningly rejected. His second contention is equally unfounded, for it is not the case that Lacépède regarded his *Coluber boiga* as a mere substitute for *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus. On the contrary, he made it clear that, in his view, he was describing a new species based upon material examined personally by himself, for which he gave particulars of the number of ventrals and caudals, total length, tail length, and notes on the teeth, head and dorsal scales, and coloration. These matters are referred to here because it is essential to demonstrate the fallacy of Smith's argument that the type species of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807, is *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, by absolute tautonymy as a preliminary to the acceptance of the selection by Meise & Hennig (1932) of *Ahaetulla mycterizans* Link, 1807, as the type species of this genus.

9. None of the genera discussed in the present application has been taken as the type genus of a family-group taxon and in consequence no family-group-name problems arise for consideration.

### Recommendations

10. The interpretations presented in the foregoing paragraphs appear to be the ones in closest agreement with the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature. However, some technical arguments might be mustered against some of the points involved. It is for this reason that the International Commission is now asked to close this long controversy by giving an authoritative Ruling as to the manner in

which the names concerned are to be used. The proposal now submitted to the Commission is that it should :—

- (1) direct that the nominal species *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, be interpreted by reference to the lectotype selected in the present paper, namely the second of the South American Linnean specimens discussed by Lönnberg (1896) ;
- (2) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Meise & Hennig (1932) : *Ahaetulla mycterizans* Link, 1807) ;
  - (b) *Leptophis* Bell, 1825 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Fitzinger (1843) : *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, as defined by the lectotype specified in (1) above) ;
  - (c) *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890 (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Ahaetulla caudolineata* Gray (J.E.), [1834]) ;
- (3) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Coluber ahaetulla* and as interpreted in (1) above (specific name of type species of *Leptophis* Bell, 1825) ;
  - (b) *caudolineata* Gray (J.E.), [1834], as published in the combination *Ahaetulla caudolineata* (specific name of type species of *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890) ;
  - (c) *nasutus* Lacépède, 1789, as published in the combination *Coluber nasutus* ;
- (4) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *Ahaetulla* Gray (J.E.), 1825 (a junior homonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807) ;
  - (b) *Dendrophis* Boie (H.), 1826 (a junior objective synonym of *Leptophis* Bell, 1825) ;
  - (c) *Tachyophis* Mertens, 1934 (a junior homonym of *Tachyophis* Rochebrune, 1884) ;
  - (d) *Dryinus* Merrem, 1820 (a junior homonym of *Dryinus* Latreille, [1804], and a junior objective synonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807) ;

- (e) *Dryophis* Dalman, 1823 (a junior objective synonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807) ;
- (f) *Passerita* Gray (J.E.), 1825 (a junior objective synonym of *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807).

## II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Dr. Savage's preliminary communication, the question of the species to be accepted as the type species of the genus *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 (Class Reptilia), was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 772.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 28th April 1956 and was published on 20th July of that year in Part 5 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Savage & Oliver, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 147—152).

**4. Support Received :** Following the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* comments were received from two specialists (Germany, one ; U.S.A., one), both of whom supported the action recommended in the present application. The communications so received are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

**5. Support received from Robert Mertens (Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a. M., Germany) :** On 11th August 1956 Professor Robert Mertens (*Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of the communication<sup>1</sup> submitted by Dr. Savage and Dr. Oliver. The

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<sup>1</sup> In the same letter Professor Mertens raised also the separate issue of the relative status to be accorded to the names *Coluber pictus* Gmelin (J.F.), [1789], and *Coluber boiga* Lacépède, 1789. For the reasons explained in paragraph 7 of the present *Opinion* this latter subject was later treated as forming the subject of a separate application.

following is an extract from that letter (Mertens, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 275) :—

The proposals brought before the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by Savage & Oliver (1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 147—152) regarding the selection of a lectotype for *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758, and the admission of the generic names *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807, *Leptophis* Bell, 1825, and *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890, to the *Official List* have my support, as well as the other proposals set out in paragraph 10 (pp. 151—152) of the paper referred to above.

**6. Support received from Hobart M. Smith (University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.) :** On 8th August 1956 Professor Hobart M. Smith (*University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.*) addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of the present case (Smith, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 317) :—

In my opinion all the requests embodied in this application merit approval by the Commission.

**7. The question of the relative precedence to be accorded to the names “*Coluber boiga*” Lacépède, 1789, and “*Coluber pictus*” Gmelin, [1789] :** In the communication dated 11th August 1956 in which Professor Mertens supported the proposals submitted in this case by Dr. Savage and Dr. Oliver (an extract from which has been published in paragraph 5 of the present *Opinion*) Professor Mertens raised also the question of the relative precedence to be accorded to the names *Coluber boiga* Lacépède, 1789, and *Coluber pictus* Gmelin, [1789], a problem which did not arise directly on the application submitted in the present case but to which a passing reference had been made by Dr. Savage and Dr. Oliver in their paper. In the passage in question those authors had given preference to the name *boiga* Lacépède and it was this treatment of that name to which Professor Mertens raised strong exception in the second part of his communication of 11th August 1956. At that stage the consideration of this related—though independent—problem was conducted simultaneously with that of the proposals submitted in the present

case. Accordingly, the whole of Professor Mertens' communication was treated as a comment on the Savage/Oliver proposals and it was published as such on 31st October 1956 (Mertens, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 275—276). Later, it was judged to be both more logical and more convenient to treat Professor Mertens' communication (other than the first paragraph) as constituting a separate and independent application concerned only with the problem raised by the names *boiga* Lacépède and *pictus* Gmelin. The documents relating to this subject were thereupon detached from those concerned with the Savage/Oliver proposals regarding the generic name *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807, and the interpretation of the nominal species *Coluber ahaetulla* Linnaeus, 1758. The case so raised by Professor Mertens was then allotted the new Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1220.<sup>2</sup> The adoption of this procedure cleared the ground for the submission of a Voting Paper to the Commission dealing with the Savage/Oliver proposals, unencumbered by the separate problem raised by Professor Mertens. A brief explanation of the procedure so adopted was, however, added (as Note 4) to the Voting Paper (V.P.(57)41) submitted in the present case.

**8. Extension of the Prescribed Waiting Period for a period of six months as from the date of the publication of Professor Mertens' Supplementary Application in October 1956 :** Upon the publication on 31st October 1956 of Professor Mertens' Supplementary Application referred to in paragraph 7 above, the Secretary on 1st November 1956 executed a Minute directing that the Prescribed Waiting Period in the present case be extended by a period of six months as from that date, i.e., that instead of closing on 26th January 1957, it should close on 1st May 1957.

**9. No Objection Received :** No objection to the action recommended in the present case was received from any source during the Prescribed Six-Month Waiting Period as extended on 1st November 1956 to 1st May 1957 by the Minute executed by the Secretary on 1st November 1956 (paragraph 8 above).

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<sup>2</sup> For the decision taken by the Commission on this subject see *Opinion* 525, which is being published in the next following Part of the present volume.

### III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**10. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)41 :** On 15th May 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)41) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807 (Class Reptilia,) as set out in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 10 on pages 151 and 152 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e., in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**11. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 15th August 1957.

**12. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)41 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)41 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-two (22) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Hering ; Vokes ; Prantl ; Lemche ; Holthuis ;  
Dymond ; do Amaral ; Esaki ; Hankó ; Stoll ;  
Jaczewski ; Mertens ; Bodenheimer ; Boschma ; Bonnet ;  
Hemming ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Cabrera ; Bradley  
(J.C.) ; Tortonese ; Miller ; Riley ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*

Key ;

(c) *On Leave of Absence, two (2) :*

Mayr ; Kühnelt ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

**13. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 16th August 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)41, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 12 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**14. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" :** On 20th March 1958 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)41).

**15. Original References for Generic and Specific Names :** The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*Ahaetulla* Link, 1807, *Beschr. Nat. Samml. Rostock.* (2) : 73

*Ahaetulla* Gray (J.E.), 1825, *Ann. Phil.* **26** : 208

*ahaetulla*, *Coluber*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 225

*caudolineata*, *Ahaetulla*, Gray (J.E.), [1834], *Ill. Ind. Zool.* (2) : pl. 81

*Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Rept. Batr.* : 339

*Dendrophis* Boie, 1826, in Fitzinger, *Neue Classif. Rept.* : 29, 60

*Dryinus* Merrem, 1820, *Tent. Syst. Amph.* : 15, 136

*Dryophis* Dalman, 1823, *Anat. Ent.* : 7

*Leptophis* Bell, 1825, *Zool. J.* **2**(7) : 322

*nasutus*, *Coluber*, Lacépède, 1789, *Quadr. Ovip.* **2** : 100

*Passerita* Gray (J.E.), 1825, *Ann. Phil.* **26** : 208

*Tachyophis* Mertens, 1834, *Arch. Naturgesch.* (N.F.) **3** : 197

**16. References for the selection of type species for nominal genera :** The following are the references for the selection of

type species for nominal genera specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For *Ahaetulla* Link, 1807      Meise & Hennig, 1932, *Zool. Anz.* 99 : 296

For *Leptophis* Bell, 1825      Fitzinger, 1843, *Syst. Rept.* : 26

**17. Reference for the selection of a lectotype for a nominal species :** The following is the reference for the selection of a lectotype for a nominal species specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For *Coluber ahaetulla*      Savage (J.M.) & Oliver (J.A.),  
Linnaeus, 1758      1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*  
12 : 148—149, paragraph 5

**18. Family-Group-Name Aspects :** No family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the applicants having stated (paragraph 9 of their paper) that none of the generic names placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* has been taken as the basis for a family-group name.

**19. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures :** The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

**20. "Opinion" Number :** The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Twenty-Four (524) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twentieth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING